

# Fort Dobbs Gazette

Volume XII Issue 3

September 2015



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

p. 1

-Fall Events

-Dispatch

p. 2

-In Memoriam

-Living History Update

-Receipt from the Past

p. 3

-Photos from the Frontier

p. 4-5

-The Cherokee Way of War

p. 6

-Volunteer Spotlight

-New Gift Shop Items

p. 7

-Friends of Fort Dobbs  
Roll Call

## Fall Events

*Fort Dobbs will be hosting two exciting events this fall; we hope you'll visit for both!*

### Colonial Fair: September 26-27

What would it have been like to live on the North Carolina frontier during the French and Indian War?

This event will offer visitors a chance to interact with the men, women, and children, soldiers, settlers, and natives, who inhabited the western North Carolina 250 years ago. Learn about historic food ways, trades and music, play period games, and hear the roar of black powder weaponry. Hours: 10-4 Saturday and 10-3 Sunday. Admission is \$3 (children under 5 free.)



### Military Timeline: November 14-15

For centuries, armies have campaigned across North Carolina and tens of thousands of the state's sons and daughters have served in wars both foreign and domestic.

Visit with living historians portraying Cherokee warriors, soldiers from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War Two, and others and learn how the soldier's experience, weapons, and equipment have changed over hundreds of years.

Hours: 10-4 Saturday and 10-3 Sunday. A donation of \$2 per visitor is suggested.



**Department of Cultural Resources**  
Susan W. Kluttz, Secretary

**Office of Archives and History**  
Dr. Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

**Division of State Historic Sites**  
Keith Hardison, Director

**Western Region Supervisor**  
Jennifer Farley

**Fort Dobbs Historic Site**  
Scott Douglas, Site Manager  
Frank McMahon, Historic Interpreter  
Wayne Steelman, Maint. Mechanic  
Michael Lampart, Site Interpreter  
Tom Nicastro, Site Interpreter

## Dispatch from the Fort by Scott Douglas, Historic Site Manager



Fall is always one of my favourite times of the year at Fort Dobbs.

The colours of the trees on our hilltop can be beautiful and the crisp air is ideal for reliving history in wool uniforms, enjoying a fire.

Following on the heels of a busy summer, this fall promises to also be full of activity. As you can see from the article above, two large events are planned, as well as several smaller weekend and day

programs, including the annual meeting of the Friends of Fort Dobbs (the non-profit organization that supports programming at the historic site) on September 8th.

If you are a member, thank you so much for your generous support. Without you, the historic site could not offer such a wide variety of programs and the effort to one day re-build Fort Dobbs would not be possible. If you are not a member of the Friends, please consider joining today.

Come visit us this fall!

## In Memory of Garland Cloer

In July, volunteer Garland Cloer lost his battle with cancer. The entire staff of Fort Dobbs has keenly felt his passing.

Garland had been involved with Fort Dobbs almost from the beginning. As a young man, he volunteered with some of the first archaeological digs at the site in the late 1960's. With ties to several of the early settler families, Garland maintained a deep interest in the history of the Statesville region for decades. He was passionate about seeking out old road beds, former house sites, and certainly about the fort. An avid collector, he managed to acquire a collection of dozens of Fort Dobbs-related artifacts from private lands and generously shared his knowledge with site staff.

As a longtime re-enactor, Garland portrayed a soldier and later a surgeon in both Civil War and Revolutionary War events, as well as for educational program at Fort Dobbs. He will always be remembered for his affable, giving nature and his friendship will be missed.



## Living History Update

It has been a productive summer here on the Carolina frontier. In May, members of the Fort Dobbs Garrison assisted the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site with their battle anniversary. Our impression for this event was Governor Tryon's 1771 Craven County Militia. During the event the Fort Dobbs Garrison provided living history demonstrations including military cooking, musket and artillery drill as well as sentry duty for Governor Tryon's marquee. This was a great opportunity to learn more about a fascinating period in North Carolina history as well as help out one of our sister sites.

On June 6th and 7th we offered our first Homeschool Living History Weekend. The event included demonstrations in 18th century gardening,

carpentry, cooking as well as musket and artillery firing.

In July the Fort Dobbs Garrison attended the Montcalm's Cross event at Fort Ticonderoga portraying Massachusetts provincials. This battle reenactment commemorated the 1758 British and Provincial attack on Fort Carillon. July also saw a successful summer camp at Fort Dobbs, where campers engaged in the daily life of a soldier and learned about archaeology.

Finally an event about the animals of western North Carolina was held in August, bringing together live animals from Chimney Rock State Park with living history displays.

Upcoming events at Fort Dobbs include:

September 26th and 27 *Colonial Fair*

November 14th and 15th *Military Timeline*

December 12th *Winter on the Western Frontier*

## A Receipt From The Past

### *To Make Spruce Beer Out of The Essence*

For a cask of eighteen gallon take seven ounces of the essence of spruce, and fourteen pounds of molasses mix them with a few gallons of hot water put into the cask; then fill the cask with cold water, stir it well, make it about lukewarm; then add about two parts of a pint of good yeast or the grounds of Porter; let it stand about four or five days to work, then bung it up tight and let stand two or three days and it will be fit for immediate use after has been bottled.

Excerpt from

*The Art of Cookery Made Plain and easy* by Hannah Glasse.





## Photos From the Frontier



Top

### Summer Day Camp

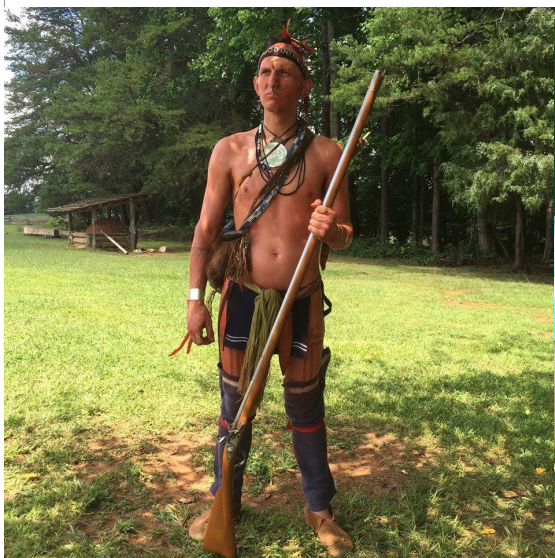
Daubing the cabin, life in a soldier's tent,  
weeding the Garrison garden



Bottom

### Animals of Western North Carolina

A Cherokee hunter (left). Grady the Groundhog  
meets an adoring fan (right.)





# Cherokee Ways of War

By Daniel Tortora

“War is their principal study & their greatest Ambition is to distinguish themselves by military Actions,” South Carolina merchant and planter William Fyffe wrote to his brother in 1761. “Even their women have some of it in their disposition,” he continued. Indeed, war was an important part of Cherokee life in the 1700s. But Cherokee ways of war differed from European ways of war. Why and how Cherokees went to war has been misunderstood.

## Cherokees went to war for four reasons:

**To avenge the death of family members** killed by the enemy and to set the world at balance. Cherokees were morally and culturally obligated to take revenge. As one white observer put it, “Revenge they account a virtue.” And any member of the offender’s clan was fair game.

**To take scalps or prisoners.** When a warrior returned home with scalps and prisoners, he helped the community to grieve. He also brought evidence of his bravery. Scalps were spread on hoops and displayed in the village. Prisoners were adopted into Cherokee society to replace loved ones lost to disease, capture, or war. Male prisoners might also be tortured to provide closure for the entire community. British or French prisoners also became bargaining chips and could be ransomed, though this was rarely the primary intention.

**To seek prestige.** A young man made a name for himself and secured war titles such as “Raven” or “Mankiller.” Warriors earned tattoos, made with dye, gunpowder, or coal dust, to symbolize courageous deeds. Bravery in battle, along with hunting skill, impressed women and their families. Leadership and respect was earned through experience, not inheritance.

**To cause fear and wreak havoc.** Especially in the French and Indian War, Indians attacked to send a message, to drive back settlers, and to spark panic and chaos. Settlers often retreated to frontier fortifications for protection. By disrupting the frontier economy, Indians collected much needed food, supplies, and horses, and bought time for other military operations.



Cherokee war leader  
Ostenaco

## Preparing for War

Indians honed battlefield skills through years of practical experience. Stickball (or in other regions, lacrosse) prepared Indians, too. It fostered camaraderie and instilled toughness and teamwork.

Rarely did Indians go to war without much thought and public discussion. Every voice was heard and considered. War was often spurred, or stopped, by women. Women also tried to negotiate peace, though British officials generally dismissed them.

A war leader beat a drum and sang songs, made his case for war, and recruited warriors to join him. Warriors and communities underwent a series of ceremonies including a ritual purification process for the warriors. Dancing followed. Then, a war party, typically consisting of twenty to forty people from the same village, departed for battle. Another set of ceremonies and festivities followed when war parties returned. Women, too, went to war. They cooked for the men, cared for wounded warriors, and negotiated peace. Sometimes they even fought. The War Woman later known as Nancy Ward is one such example. Women were present in a 1761 battle as well.

## Raids and Ambushes

The preferred method of war was the surprise attack. Cherokees sought to minimize casualties, and to take scalps and prisoners. Most liked to strike at daybreak. Indians sometimes traveled hundreds of miles to attack an enemy village, settlement, or fort. They struck relatively quickly, and then returned home.

## Siege Warfare

European troops were well versed in building and attacking fortifications. Indians were not, and because they lacked the swivel guns and cannons that Europeans had, they rarely attempted it. Instead, Indians sniped at the walls from the cover of the woods. They lay in ambush along the trail, hoping to take out reinforcements or messengers. They tried to lure people out of the forts to shoot, scalp, or capture them. This is what happened when Colonel Waddell, Captain Bailie, and ten soldiers from Fort Dobbs were attacked by Cherokees on the night of February 27, 1760, but the North Carolinians held their own in the darkness. Only the boldest war parties stormed fortifications (as they did at Fort Ninety Six and Fort Prince George in South Carolina). Rarely did Indians capture a fort; Overhill Cherokees captured Fort Loudoun in the Cherokee Overhills after a several month siege in

1760, and Indians from the Ohio Country took several forts in Pontiac's Rebellion of 1763–1765.



**Fort Loudoun**

### Open Battle

With some exceptions, Cherokees rarely fought in open field battles. Several hundred Cherokees fought the Creek Indians in 1755, for example. The Chickasaw Indians (settled near present-day Memphis) were known for their prowess in open battle.

Indians attacked at narrow passes and at river crossings, where it was easiest to surround and envelop the enemy. When the attack began, war whoops echoed down the line like a verbal version of “the wave” at a modern sporting event. Contrary to popular belief, Indians actually shouted commands and encouragement to each other; a lot of teamwork was involved. Warriors fired from cover, but Indians were in constant motion, attempting to outflank their enemy with the classic “half-moon” formation. In large battles, Indians often used rifles rather than the muskets used by their white counterparts, which also allowed sharpshooters to fire from a distance. Indians dressed lightly, removing heavy clothing before engaging in battle, and they carried knives and tomahawks for hand-to-hand combat.

In any battle, Indians withdrew when their casualty rates got too high for comfort, and did whatever they could to pull their dead and wounded off the battlefield. The war leader was always in the thick of the action, and he also covered his warriors' retreat.

### In the Anglo-Cherokee War

In 1760 and 1761, two major battles were fought in what is today Macon County, North Carolina. In the first, six hundred Cherokees, mostly from the Lower Towns, turned out against about 1,500 British troops led by

Colonel Archibald Montgomery. In 1761, one thousand Cherokees encountered Lieutenant Colonel James Grant with about 2,800 British, South Carolina, and Indian troops.

In both battles, the undermanned Indians attempted the classic half-moon formation. In both, they also attacked the invaders' rear guard—destroying the flour, wagons, and cattle, and creating disarray among the inexperienced rangers and herdsmen. In 1760, they caused enough casualties and damage that Colonel Montgomery decided to retreat several hours after the battle. In 1761, the Indians' ammunition shortage sealed their defeat, and Lieutenant Colonel Grant marched onward to destroy most of the Middle and Out Towns.

### Cherokee and European Warfare Compared

Indian warfare was very different from European warfare. While Europeans saw Indians as “savages” and “barbarians,” Indians had reasons and strategies in mind when they went to war. Indians preferred the ambush, though they did have some successes in sieges and open battles. They sought to minimize casualties, and they even relied on input from women.



This photo, taken across the Little Tennessee River in Macon County, North Carolina, shows the hills where Cherokees stood when they attacked Lieutenant Colonel James Grant's invading army in 1761.

### About the Author

Daniel J. Tortora, Ph.D., is assistant professor of history at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and is author of *Carolina in Crisis: Cherokees, Colonists, and Slaves in the American Southeast, 1756-1763* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015).



## Volunteer Spotlight

Let's take a moment to shine the spotlight on one of our newer members of the Fort Dobbs Garrison. Andrew Shook grew up in Bethlehem, NC and still resides only a few miles from his family home. He graduated from Alexander Central High School and went on to Catawba Valley Community College in the 2 year architecture program. He worked as a truss designer and salesman and now is a stay-at-home dad. Andrew's wife Anna and their two children Alan (age 5) and Amy (age 3) are also frequent volunteers at Fort Dobbs Garrison events.

Andrew has loved American history since he was a kid. His grandmother is a local genealogist and historian and through her influence he started studying the Civil War. About eight years ago Andrew and his brother became interested in 18<sup>th</sup> century long hunters. They started hunting with flintlocks and in period dress during the black powder season. Using his flintlock fowler Andrew has taken a number of deer and turkeys. Andrew has also brought venison to share at garrison events. He learned about Fort Dobbs through his grandmother and attended his first event as a visitor in 2006 and has been coming ever since! He told us "My favorite part about volunteering at Fort Dobbs has been all the great people we have met and new friends we have made. Everybody has been very nice and helpful. I love being there and trying to really get a feeling of what it was like to be there in the 18th century!"



Andrew also enjoys photography, videography, and playing both guitar and claw hammer banjo. He has combined his interest in banjo, media and history in a series of short YouTube videos called *Monday Morning Jo*. According to Andrew "I have been the unofficial family photographer since I was a teenager. My interest in photography and film took another step with the birth of our son. I wanted to document the journey of parenthood to the best of my ability." Andrew was instrumental in helping the staff of Fort Dobbs create a series of short video interpreting the experiences of North Carolina provincial soldiers.

Thank you Andrew and the entire Shook family for all of your help. We look forward to your volunteering at Fort Dobbs well into the future!

## New Gift Shop Items

*The Petit Sutler* gift shop is pleased to announce that several high-quality reproduction coins have been added to our inventory! Produced by Whispering Dream Pewter in Vermont, these coins represent some of the currency commonly found in the American colonies at the time of the French and Indian War.

Several of the coins may be purchased individually and some are available as a package.

The new selection includes: 1745 English Half Penny (center), 1763 French Ecu (right), Spanish 1 Reale Cob (left), Spanish 2 Reale, 1760 Spanish Dollar, 1745 English Shilling, and 1762 English Three Pence.



# FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

The Friends of Fort Dobbs supports the mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site:

*"To preserve and interpret North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort."*

## THANK YOU NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

### Sergeant

George Brawley  
Mooresville, NC  
Bob and Barbara Collier  
Statesville, NC  
Barry and Anna Gordon  
Troutman, NC  
Robert Gordon  
Statesville, NC  
Rona Gordon  
Statesville, NC  
Bruce and Barbara Haldeman  
Greensboro, NC  
Steve Hill and Penny Hendrick  
Statesville, NC

### Corporal

Anne Ellenburg  
Statesville, NC  
Dick and Suzy Everhart  
State Road, NC  
William and Ellar Hicks  
Cleveland, NC  
Nancy Kline  
Houston, TX  
Lori Lawrence  
Charlotte, NC  
Larry Nichols  
Statesville, NC  
Anna Shook  
Taylorsville, NC

### Recruit and Senior

Jim Ashburn  
Statesville, NC  
Preston Bass  
Statesville, NC

William Bush  
Statesville, NC

Carol Dukes

Demorest, GA

Gerald Dukes

Demorest, GA

Linda Hager

Statesville, NC

Grayson Holshouser

Statesville, NC

Reid Holshouser

Statesville, NC

Rachel Hoyle

Newton, NC

Emma Johnson

Statesville, NC

Will Johnson

Statesville, NC

Logan Lambert

Statesville, NC

Daniel McNeely

Statesville, NC

Scott Neely

Matthews, NC

Elizabeth Reber

Statesville, NC

Jeff Smith

Statesville, NC

Karen Walters

Statesville, NC

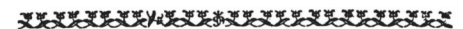
### Education Fund

Phil Hazel  
Statesville, NC  
Davis Regional Hospital  
Rotary Club of Statesville  
Statesville Women's Club

### To Our 2015 Sponsors—

*Alarm South  
Benfield Sanitation  
Courtyard Marriott  
Country Legends WAME  
Design Detail  
Hampton Inn  
Iredell County Sheriff's  
Department  
Maymead Materials, Inc.  
Statesville Record &  
Landmark*

—and to the  
Many Other  
Friends of the Fort:  
**THANK YOU!**



**JOIN OR RENEW**

*On-Line at*

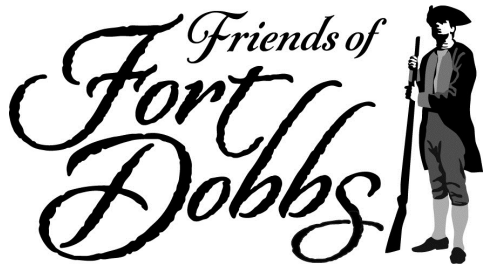
***WWW.FortDobbs.Org!***



***Visit Fort Dobbs  
on Face Book!***

### Capital Campaign Contributions

Rotary Club of Greater Statesville



Fort Dobbs State Historic Site  
438 Fort Dobbs Rd.  
Statesville, NC 28625  
704/873-5882

### *The Struggle for America*

*Thank you to the Friends of Fort Dobbs for providing funding for the printing of the Fort Dobbs Gazette*



## *Support Fort Dobbs through your Friends membership!*

Application Please Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

My Check is Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please debit my Credit Card: Visa/MC (Circle One)

My Credit Card Number is \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Recruit** (Students and Seniors) \$10

☐ **Corporal** \$50

☐ **Sergeant** \$100

☐ **Lieutenant** \$250

Please mail application with your check or credit card information to:

**Friends of Fort Dobbs**

**PO Box 241**

**Statesville, NC 28687**

The Friends of Fort Dobbs welcomes additional tax-deductible contributions. For giving memorials, honoraria or matching gifts from employers, call the Friends of Fort Dobbs, at 704-873-5882 or e-mail at [info@fortdobbs.org](mailto:info@fortdobbs.org)

### **Your membership benefits include:**

10% discount in store

Advance notice of events

Quarterly newsletter

And more.....